

Central America, and *Trinomys* occupies the same position within the Mata Atlantica of coastal Brazil. *Holochilus* is widely distributed throughout the moist grasslands and forests of South America and is a major pest in many agricultural areas. While species boundaries in each taxon may still be insecure, and new species continue to be described, the generic assignments for each of these has not been in doubt for the last 80 years or longer.

The proposal in Case 3121 thus represents a simple solution that would maintain a stability in usage of long-standing and preserve the effective communication now present across a wide range of biological disciplines. I urge the Commission to accept this proposal.

Comments on the proposed conservation of *Cervus gouazoubira* Fischer, 1814 (currently *Mazama gouazoubira*; Mammalia, Artiodactyla) as the correct original spelling

(Case 3018; see BZN 56: 262–265)

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I fully support A.L. Gardner's application to conserve the current spelling of the specific name of the brown brocket deer, which has almost universally been known as *Mazama gouazoubira* (Fischer, 1814) for many years.

As information retrieval from the scientific literature becomes increasingly dependent on computer searches, capricious spelling changes of taxon names are serious threats to effective communication among researchers. No purpose is served by reverting to Fischer's original spelling.

(2) Peter Grubb

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I write to support Gardner's proposal that the name *Mazama gouazoubira* should be used for the brown brocket, even though the original name was *Cervus gouazoubira* Fischer, 1814.

It is appropriate to present some additional background information concerning this case. There has hitherto been a mood to establish or maintain the original spelling as the valid species-group name even when it has not been generally employed in the literature. Other examples occur in Wilson & Reeder (1993): *Neotragus pygmeus* (from *Capra pygmaea* Linnaeus, 1758) replaced *N. pygmaeus*; and *Funisciurus pyrropus* (from *Sciurus pyrropus* F. Cuvier, 1833) replaced *F. pyrropus*. Further cases where the generally accepted spelling has recently been replaced by the original one are *Pudu pudu* (from *Capra puda* Molina, 1782; not *P. pudu*; see Hershkovitz, 1982, p. 60) and *Galagoides demidoff* (from *Galago demidoff* Fischer, 1806; not *G. demidovii*; see Jenkins, 1987, p. 98). Attempts to restore the 'incorrect' *Felis lybica* to *F. libyca* or *Naemorhedus* to *Nemorhaedus* (see Ellerman & Morrison-Scott, 1951, p. 304 and amendment sheet) have not proved wholly acceptable. I believed that I was following a trend (Grubb in Wilson & Reeder, 1993) by treating